Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8786

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EXDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, XF

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PLO ISSUE AT UNESCO

1. MOST RECENT INFORMATION, FROM RELIABLE AND WELL-PLACED SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS OTHER PERMDEL SOURCES, IS THAT PLO-ARABS NOW INCLINED TO DESIST FROM PRESENT-ING ISSUE TO EXBD AND SETTLE FOR EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PLO AND DG. PLO LETTER REPORTEDLY WOULD INFORM DG THAT IBRAHIM SOUSS DESIGNATED AS PLO'S PERMANENT OBSERVER IN CONTEXT OF WORKING WITH UNESCO TO IMPLEMENT 18 GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 13.1 RE CULTURAL - EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF POPULATIONS IN OCCUPIED ARAB

TERRITORIES. DG LETTER REPORTEDLY WOULD ONLY ACKNOW-

LEDGE RECEIPT AND

WOULD NOT RPT NOT REFER EXPLICITLY TO "PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION" STATUS FOR PLO, BUT DG LETTER WOULD REFER TO 18TH GC RESOLUTION 13.1.

2. FURTHER, ARABS HAVE ASKED PERMDEL DIRECTLY THROUGH TUNISIAN PERMREP (SAID) FOR ASSURANCES THAT US WOULD NOT RAISE OBJECTIONS WITH DG TO EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. WERE US TO PROTEST, SAID SAID PLO-ARABS WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO GO TO EXECUTIVE BOARD TO OBTAIN BOARD'S AUTHORIZATION OF PLO MISSION. SAID STRESSED ARABS-PLO VERY MUCH SECRET

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HOPE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US OR TO PROVOKE DIS-

PUTE AT EXBD EVEN THOUGH THEY CONFIDENT OF NECESSARY VOTES, AND FEEL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS APPROACH BEST AND ONLY ALTERNATIVE. SAID HAS ASKED PERMDEL FOR US RESPONSE ASAP.

- 3. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH ABOVE APPROACH, PERM-DEL REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION TO PASS WORD TO DG M'BOW IN ORDER TO FURTHER ENHANCE CHANCES FOR KEEPING PLO ISSUE OUT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.
- 4. PLEASE ADVISE
- 5. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PERMDEL BELIEVES THAT ARABS DO IN FACT HAVE NECESSARY VOTES TO WIN HANDILY IF PLO ISSUE COMES BEFORE EXBD; INDEED THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT US MIGHT BE ALONE IN THE VOTING RING AGAINST SUCH A RESOLUTION. RUSH

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING OBSERVERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

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Subject: STATUS OF PLO ISSUE AT UNESCO TAGS: PORG, XF, UNESCO, PLO, (SOUSS, IBRAHIM) To: STATE

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